

**Testimony in Support of H. B. No. 436**  
**Submitted to the Ohio House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee**  
**Honorable Derek Merrin, Chair**

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking member Sobecki, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of **H. B. No. 436** sponsored by Representative Jordan 67<sup>th</sup> House District and Representative Rick Carfagna 68<sup>th</sup> House District both of whom represent Delaware County. I will reference Finance Authority instead of Port Authority in my testimony because all Port Authorities are Finance Authorities but not all Finance Authorities operate ports sited with-in their boundaries.

There are 58 Finance Authorities organized in the State of Ohio, a very limited number of which were in existence prior to the enactment of **ORC 4582**; in fact I believe those Finance Authorities are 5 in number. The Delaware County Finance Authority (DCFA) was organized in April 2006 by the County Board of Commissioners (of which Representative Jordan was a member) to enable Delaware County to more effectively compete for and enable economic development in Delaware County. The DCFA also, under negotiated Intergovernmental Agreements, works closely with the Counties of Morrow and Ross – **at their specific invitation and at their direction** – to enable development in those respective counties. I want to emphasize that we do not act unilaterally or at our exclusive discretion in Morrow and Ross counties.

I have served on the Board of Directors of the DCFA since 2014 and have served as both Treasurer for 4 years and as Chair for 3 years. When I joined the DCFA my charge from the Delaware County Board of Commissioners was to increase the activities and effectiveness of the DCFA. I believe today the DCFA is one of the most innovative and effective Finance Authorities in the State of Ohio, however, under existing law we are limited in our efforts and at the mercy without discretion of the 5 grandfathered Finance Authorities. In fact, the DCFA was approached by a large developer active statewide to provide economic incentives after the developer was denied by one of our sister Authorities; as Chair I refused to consider the request as I believed that would be disrespectful to the other Finance Authority. Unfortunately, that same courtesy has not been extended to the DCFA in the recent past.

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The DCFA's development program has resulted in over \$1 billion dollars of development investment in Delaware County without a single dollar of directed incentive from the Ohio Department of Development Services Agency or the Ohio Department of Taxation. When DHL – the largest supply chain management company in the world – was seeking a site to build their Americas Headquarters the final selection came down to Westerville Ohio and Austin Texas. At the ground breaking ceremonies Scott Sureddin, CEO North America, DHL Supply Chain, specifically stated that had it not been for the DCFA DHL would have located in Austin Texas taking over 400 high paying jobs with planned expansion to 800 out of Ohio.

The incentives the DCFA provides do not – **do not** – include offering income nor property tax abatements, those are governed by the actions of the local government entity. Instead we offer incentives that our development partners and investors in Delaware County use to fund the cost of infrastructure improvements to enable specific projects. Unlike some Central Ohio counties Delaware County has not been a beneficiary of the infrastructure funding that has allowed other Counties to land billions in projects enabled by State funds to construct infrastructure that enables those billions in projects.

In addition to the development incentives that we along with every other Finance Authority offer the DCFA is also developing a business parks in partnership with land owners and Township Trustees. We are also organizing our own bond fund in cooperation with Treasurer Donald Rankey the newly elected Delaware County Treasurer. We are using innovative approaches to establish our bond fund and we are not siphoning funds from surrounding Counties although we may offer them the opportunity to participate in the future, again at their specific discretion.

We did not enlist the support of Representatives Jordan and Carfagna to introduce **H. B. No. 436** to gain a targeted advantage for Delaware County. Instead, we are seeking to level the playing field and bring equality and consistency to the provision of development incentives in Ohio. This will allow Ohio to more effectively compete with the other 49 states to get more than our share of job creation and investment in Ohio. Thank you for your attention and valuable time.